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HABITAT HERALD

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TWIN CITIES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY • Vol. 24 Number 2 • SUMMER 2013

Veteran family benefits from A World of Hope

A subsidized studio apartment is not the ideal place to raise three active kids.

Thankfully Mohammad Zafar and Sarah O’Keefe now have the space they need in the Twin Cities Habitat home they bought in Oakdale last month.

Sarah grew up in Cannon Falls; and Mohammad’s family moved from Pakistan when he was a boy. He grew up in Eagan, served in the Marines, earned a 4-year college degree and now works at Metro State University helping other Veterans get financial aid for college. Over the past year, Twin Cities Habitat has been reaching out to serve more Veteran families like his.

At the home dedication celebration, Mohammad told the Habitat supporters and volunteers that as a Muslim it takes a long time to save because his faith teaches that it is wrong to benefit from, or pay, interest. The family had a 15-year plan to buy a home, but once Sarah found out about Habitat’s unique 0% interest mortgage they realized they could afford to put down permanent roots much sooner.

Sarah cried tears of joy when she heard their family had been selected to buy a home. She said she really feels prepared because of all the financial training and home maintenance classes she went through as part of Habitat’s Homeownership Program. Their mortgage payments will now go to fund more Habitat homes.

Our World of Hope campaign has made it possible for 211 hardworking, low-income families to buy Twin Cities Habitat homes over the past four years. Funds are still needed before the end of our fiscal year on June 30 to finish the final 19 homes and hit our campaign goal. Please make a gift today. Read all about the impact the *World of Hope* campaign has had so far on page 4.

Barakah (left) loves her new Habitat home in Oakdale. She celebrated the home dedication with two friends and showed off her new room. She says she’s looking forward to being able to play outside.



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DEAR FRIENDS,

Summer is finally here and our long winter is a distant memory – hooray! This is an especially exciting summer for Twin Cities Habitat as we are so close to completing our 4-year World of Hope campaign. In 2009, when the recession and housing crisis were at their worst, we launched this ambitious campaign because our community needed us. We saw hardworking families and local neighborhoods suffering and together we promised to do more. The goals we set felt immense and we wondered if we could reach them. But, we went to work and the impact has been amazing (read more about it on page 4). You volunteered more, gave more and invited more people to join the mission of eliminating poverty housing. Today I have no doubt that with your generous support we will achieve success.

With this new facility we are promising that we will be here to support Twin Cities families as they reach for their dreams for decades to come.

On May 9, 2013 we made another promise when we broke ground on Twin Cities Habitat's New Home. With this new facility we promise to be here to partner with, and support, Twin Cities families as they reach for their dreams for decades to come.

It is a testament to the compassion of this community that corporations, foundations and individual donors came together to fully support the creation of our much-needed New Home. In fact, every single member of the Twin Cities Habitat Board of Directors contributed to this effort. Thanks to the generosity shown, not a single dollar raised for A World of Hope has been diverted from funding the critical programs and services we offer to families.



President and CEO Susan Haigh (right) and Chief Operating Officer Mary Schumacher (left) got the dirt flying at the groundbreaking ceremony for Twin Cities Habitat's New Home which will open at 1954 University Avenue in St. Paul in early 2014.

This means that when we move into our New Home, Twin Cities Habitat will be stronger than ever and better prepared to meet the needs of our community.

You are an integral part of the family empowerment miracle that is Habitat. I know you have given generously in the past, but I am asking you to make a gift to A World of Hope today and help another family. We still have 19 homes to fully fund before the end of our fiscal year on June 30. Please help us ensure these homes are finished on time and that the hardworking

families—who've put in hundreds of hours of sweat equity—can sign their Habitat mortgages and begin paying it forward to fund a home for the next family.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Haigh".

Susan Haigh

President and CEO, Twin Cities Habitat



Regular volunteer crews, like Buck's Crew (2008) are the backbone of Twin Cities Habitat.

Be a regular and take your volunteering to the next level

Joining a crew of regular Habitat volunteers is fun and easy. You can volunteer once a month, once a week—or even more! Twin Cities Habitat counts on the stability and reliability of these big-hearted people to get projects finished on time.

The 3M CARES crew (made up of 3M retirees) has been volunteering together since 1996. They're out on site Tuesdays and Thursdays all year round. They even help fundraise and contribute more than \$200,000 a year to Twin Cities Habitat.

"The great part of building with Habitat is if you don't know how to do something, Habitat will teach you," says John Winters, a long-time volunteer with 3M CARES. "If you're unsure how to

install a window in the morning, someone will work with you and by that afternoon, you'll be teaching someone else."

Our *A Brush with Kindness* program also relies on regular crews like the ABWK-REGS. This crew works in advance of other volunteer groups to do things like repair decks, trim, soffits and stairways.

"I truly enjoy the interaction we get with the homeowners," says Dave Devoy, a retiree who's been with the ABWK-REGS for three years. "Doing the minor repairs before the groups show up helps the whole process.

Learn more about joining a regular crew or starting your own by visiting www.tchabitat.org/regulars/.



Thank you, Kenny!

After 22 years with the Dakota Regulars, Kenny Drangstveit has begun his well-deserved retirement at the age of 92. Kenny volunteered on literally hundreds of homes over the years. His wit and wisdom will be deeply missed on site.

Regular Crews by Timeline

1986	North Central (27)
1989	Northwest (24)
1990	Bud's Bunch (23) G. Alumni (23)
1991	Dakota County (22)
1992	JCRC (21)
1993	Cargill Spice (20) St. Paul (20)
1995	St. Andrew's (18)
1996	3M CARES (17)
1997	Ameriprise Retirees (16)
1998	Xcel Retirees (15)
1999	Basilica (14)
2000	South Metro (13)
2010	A Brush with Kindness (3) Stonecutters (3)

HABITAT HERALD

Our mission is to eliminate poverty housing from the Twin Cities and to make decent, affordable shelter for all people a matter of conscience.

Contributors to this issue: Erin Ahlstrom, Patrick Dunn, edited by Matt Haugen.

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A W O R L D O F
HOPE
IT STARTS AT HOME

4 years of increased help for families and neighborhoods

Our campaign, *A World of Hope: It Starts at Home*, has made it possible to increase Twin Cities Habitat's work with families and neighborhoods by 20% over the past four years. Over \$35M has been raised so far. Now we need the final gifts to fund the last 19 homes before the end of our fiscal year on June 30.

Please give today to help another hardworking, low-income Twin Cities family begin building their dreams in a home they own. Here are the stats of the amazing impact made possible thanks to our generous campaign supporters.



211 Habitat homes built by volunteers (*Goal: 230*)

211 Zero-interest mortgages funded for Habitat homebuyers

55,000+ Habitat volunteers engaged



438 Private sector jobs created by thanks to Habitat construction

656 Homes repaired through the *A Brush with Kindness* program

6,592 People educated about homeownership or counseled through our *Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention* program



256

Habitat homes funded and built in Costa Rica, Mozambique and Haiti. Twin Cities Habitat tithes more money to build Habitat homes abroad than any other affiliate in the world.

15,500+

Supporters who've donated money

\$52,146,000

Economic activity generated by Habitat homebuilding



One Neighborhood's Story

Thanks to A World of Hope, Twin Cities Habitat was able to increase the impact we had in neighborhoods hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis. One shining example is the Hawthorne EcoVillage in North Minneapolis where Habitat volunteers have built nine homes and repaired two more. The positive impact has been tremendous.

2007	Change in the EcoVillage	2012
10	Foreclosures	0
10	Blighted Properties	2
34	Drug arrests	4
8	Owner-Occupied Homes	14



Fun & Fundraising Collide!

The 2013 Hard Hat & Black Tie Gala was a great success. More than 900 guests filled the St. Paul RiverCentre on April 20 and helped raise over \$560,000 for the mission of Twin Cities Habitat.

Did you miss out on the fun this year? Save the date Saturday, April 12, 2014 for next year's gala at the RiverCentre.

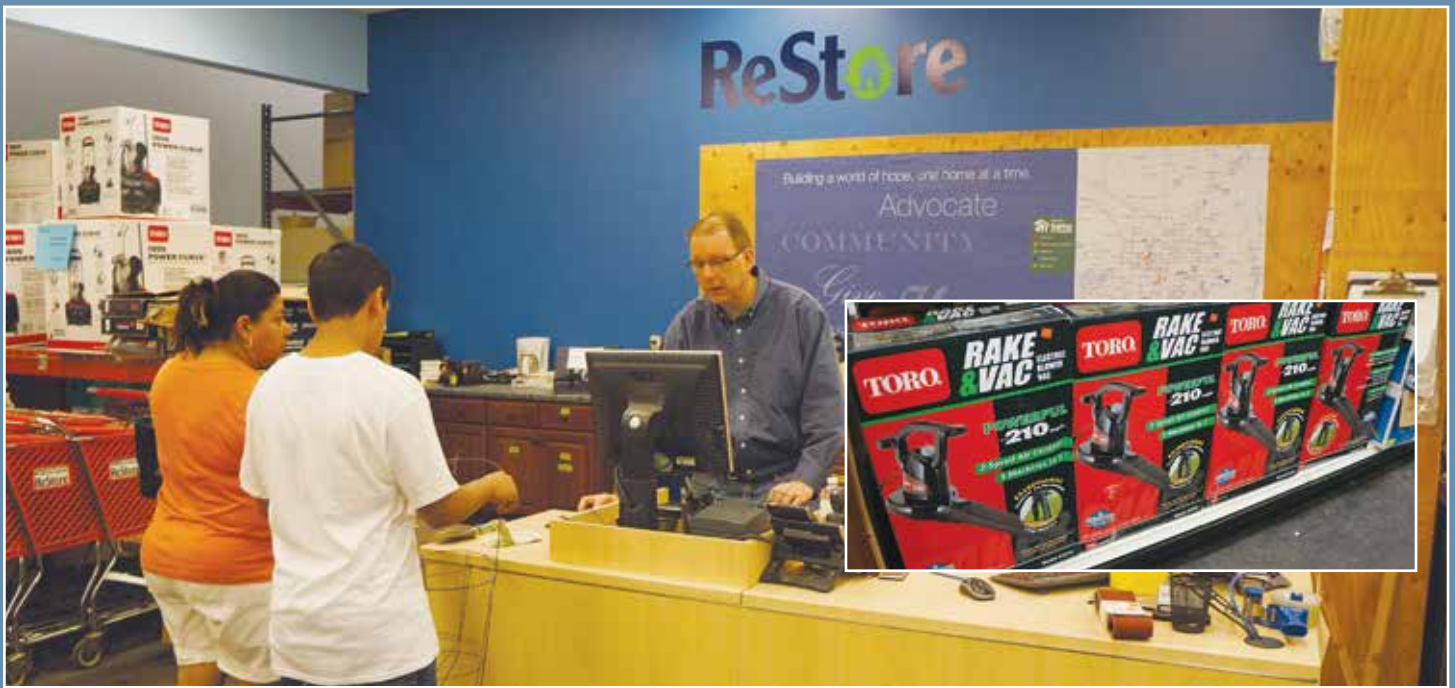


The party got started with a flash mob of dancers that surprised guests during the cocktail hour. Later everyone got to dance to the music of *Pop Rocks!* and play some off-the-wall party games.

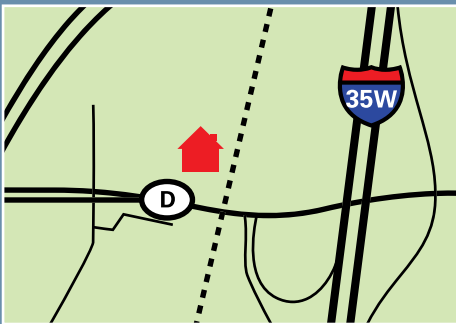
Twin Cities Habitat Board Chair Norm Baer emceed the first (and now annual) Hard Hat & Black Tie Fashion Show. Contestants showed off their construction couture, a signature part of the party that's a little less formal and a lot more fun.

Generous Habitat supporters bid on awesome live and silent auction items including exotic trips, catered celebrity dinners and once-in-a-lifetime experience packages. During the Fund-A-Need event, more than \$270,000 was raised in just fifteen minutes!





ReStore Manager Pete O'Keefe is helping a lot more customers these days. Many of them are picking up new items donated by Toro.



510 County Road D West
New Brighton, MN 55112
612-588-3820

Twin Cities
 **Habitat for Humanity**[®]
ReStore

Check out the refreshed ReStore

The Habitat ReStore in New Brighton got a big makeover this spring, and now business is booming!

The ReStore sells donated building materials and supplies at deep discounts to help fund Twin Cities Habitat projects. Support Habitat's mission by shopping or donating items at the ReStore regularly!

- ReStore sales have doubled since it reopened
- Corporate donations are up and that means more new products available at great prices
- Shoppers have more than doubled
- Google came by to get a 360° picture inside the new Habitat ReStore. See it for yourself on Google Maps
- Be the first to know about great deals at the ReStore with our Hot Deals email. Sign up at www.tchabitat.org/restore/
- Bring the ReStore coupon on the back page with you to save even more





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3001 4th Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Support Twin Cities Habitat by shopping at & donating to the ReStore



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50% OFF

any single plumbing or lighting item

Valid through June 30, 2013. Limit one per customer.

HH0613



 Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Equal Opportunity Housing Agency.

www.tchabitat.org/restore